

STATE ASSESSMENTS

Many state and local governments rely heavily on US EPA's office of research and development's assessments of hazardous chemicals like the Integrated Science Assessments under the Clean Air Act or the IRIS program for toxics to set their clean up levels for hazardous pollutants like known neurotoxins such as lead and carcinogens such as benzene. The current president's budget targets these scientific functions for large cuts.

Question: How will EPA increase its support to state and local agencies to perform those scientific assessments on a case-by-case basis?

Answer: EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) helps EPA, states, local agencies, and tribal nations make smart, informed, and thoroughly-researched decisions to protect people's health. Through IRIS, EPA develops comprehensive, rigorously peer-reviewed scientific assessments. EPA scientists also produce Integrated Science Assessments (ISAs) that accurately and concisely evaluate a large number of peer reviewed publications that reflect the latest and most advanced scientific knowledge. These ISAs provide the scientific foundation for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). They go through a very rigorous and independent peer review and a public comment period. EPA's Office of Research and Development will continue to conduct ISAs and IRIS assessments as resources allow.